

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Che Swyden Chereskin (Reg # 41,466) on 04/11/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method of recovering a nervous function lost due to a spinal cord injury comprising administering an effective amount of a hyaluronic acid oligosaccharide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to an animal suffering from loss of nervous function, wherein the hyaluronic acid oligosaccharide is selected from hyaluronic acid disaccharide to hyaluronic acid 50-saccharide.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has found claims 7, 9-12, 14-16 to be unobvious over the prior art of record and therefore to be allowable over the prior art of record. The present invention relates a method of treating nerve damage, comprising administering an effective amount of a hyaluronic acid oligosaccharide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to an animal suffering from nerve damage, wherein the hyaluronic acid oligosaccharide is selected from hyaluronic acid disaccharide to hyaluronic acid 50-saccharide. The very

relevant prior art document, Atsuta et al., to this invention which treats spinal cord injuries do not teach or suggest the use of the specific hyaluronic acid disaccharide to hyaluronic acid 50-saccharide to treat said nerve damage, nor is it obvious to use said disaccharide to hyaluronic acid 50-saccharide. Furthermore, applicant's declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 demonstrates that hyaluronic acid disaccharide to hyaluronic acid 50-saccharide have a superior effect compared to hyaluronic acid polysaccharide having larger molecular weight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Henry whose telephone number is 571-272-0652. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30am-5pm; Mon-Fri. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Henry

April 11, 2008

/Shaojia Anna Jiang, Ph.D./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1623